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Smart Energy Council

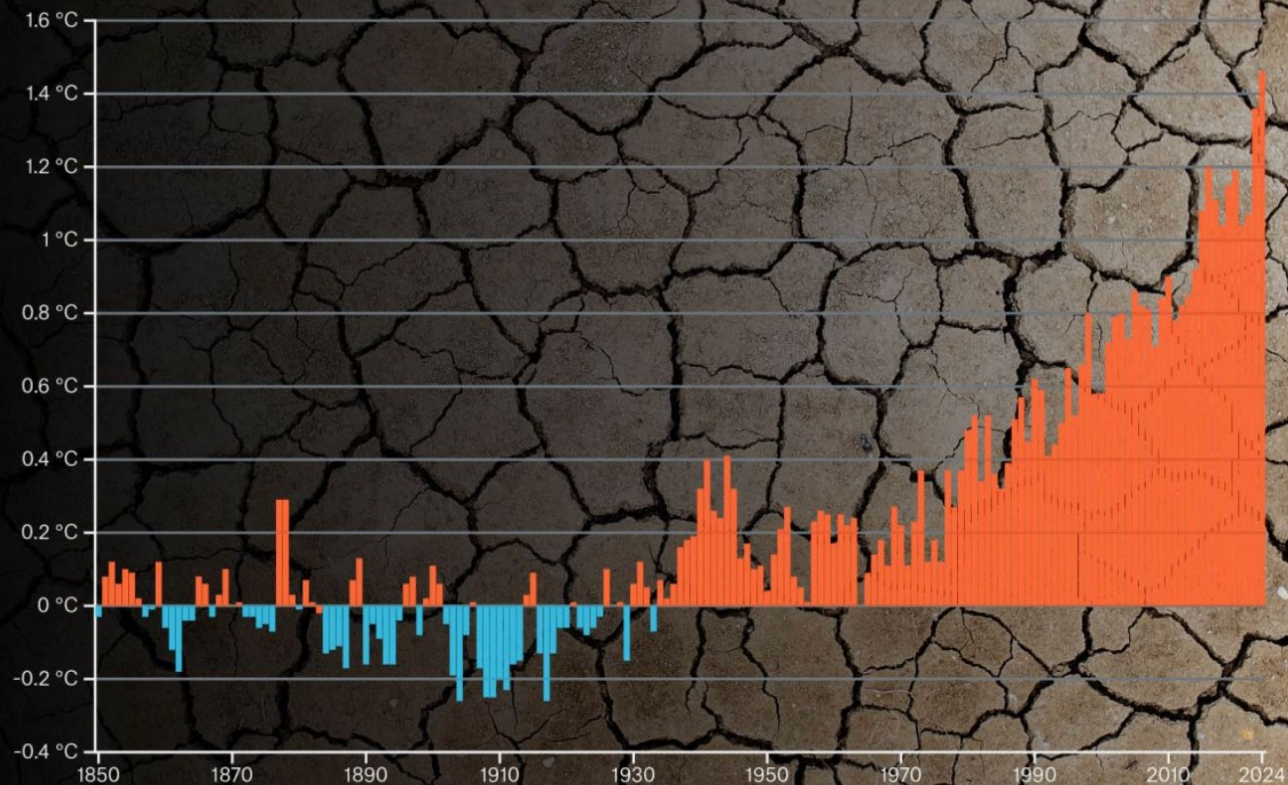
**Foreign Policy: The Global
Politics of Climate**

9 April 2025

CEF accepts and acts on the basis of the climate science evidence

The last 11 years were the warmest on record

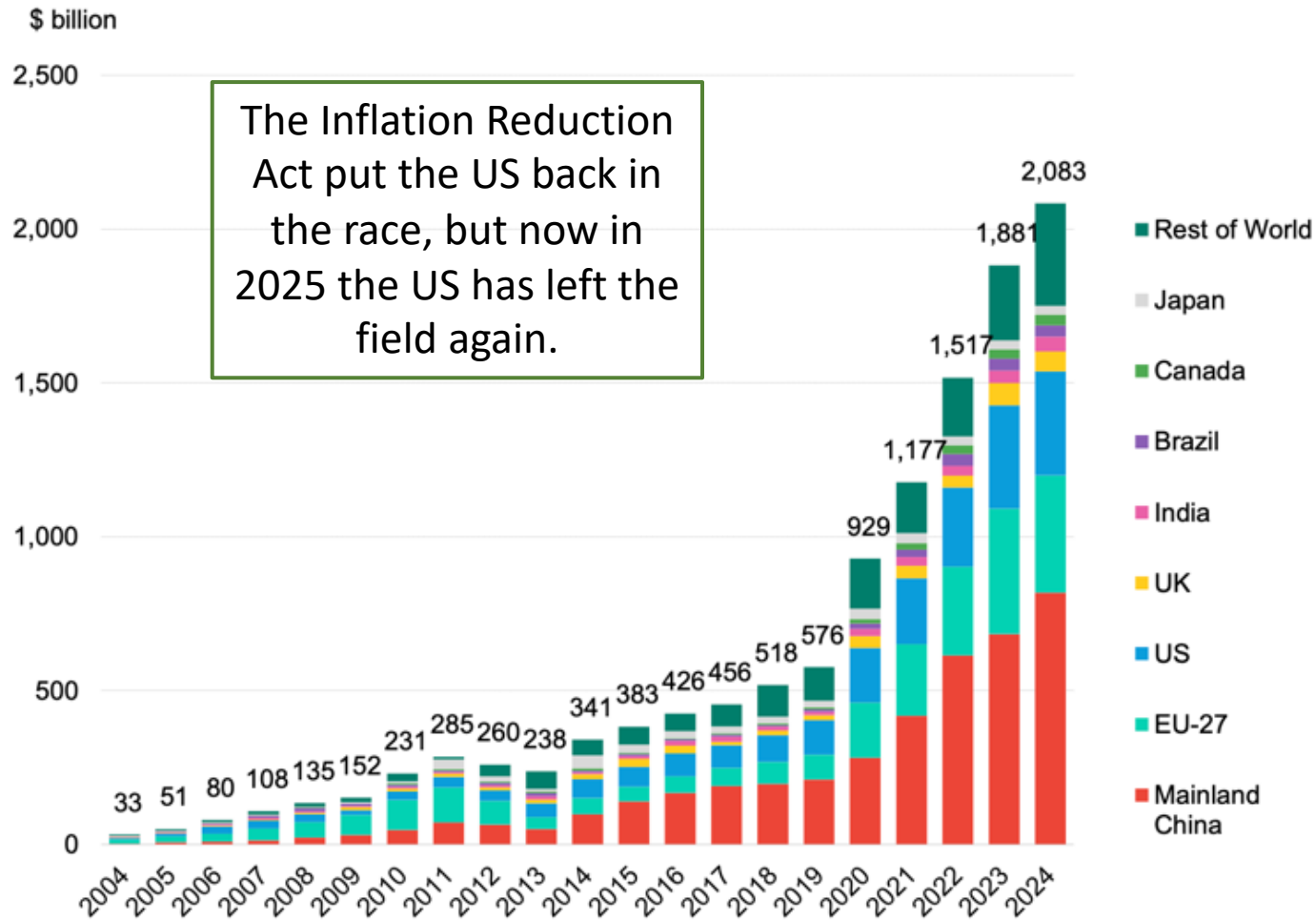
Global temperature anomalies compared to the 1850 - 1900 average



Source: NOAA, as at January 2025

China's Cleantech Investment Dominance

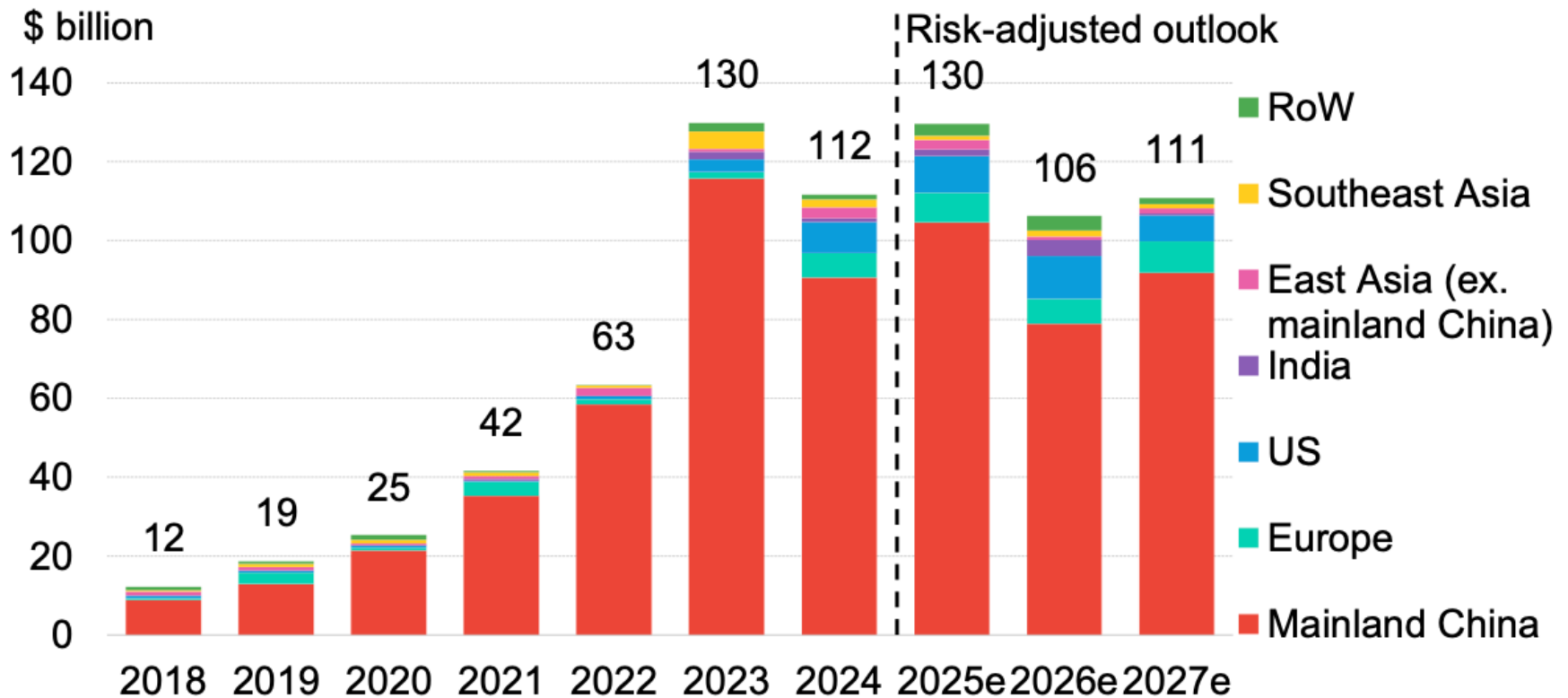
The world invested US\$2.1 trillion in cleantech in 2024, +11% yoy



Source: BloombergNEF. Note: Start-years differ by sector, but all sectors are present by 2020. The step-change in 2020 is caused in part by the addition of power grids into the scope from that year onward.

China's Cleantech Investment Dominance

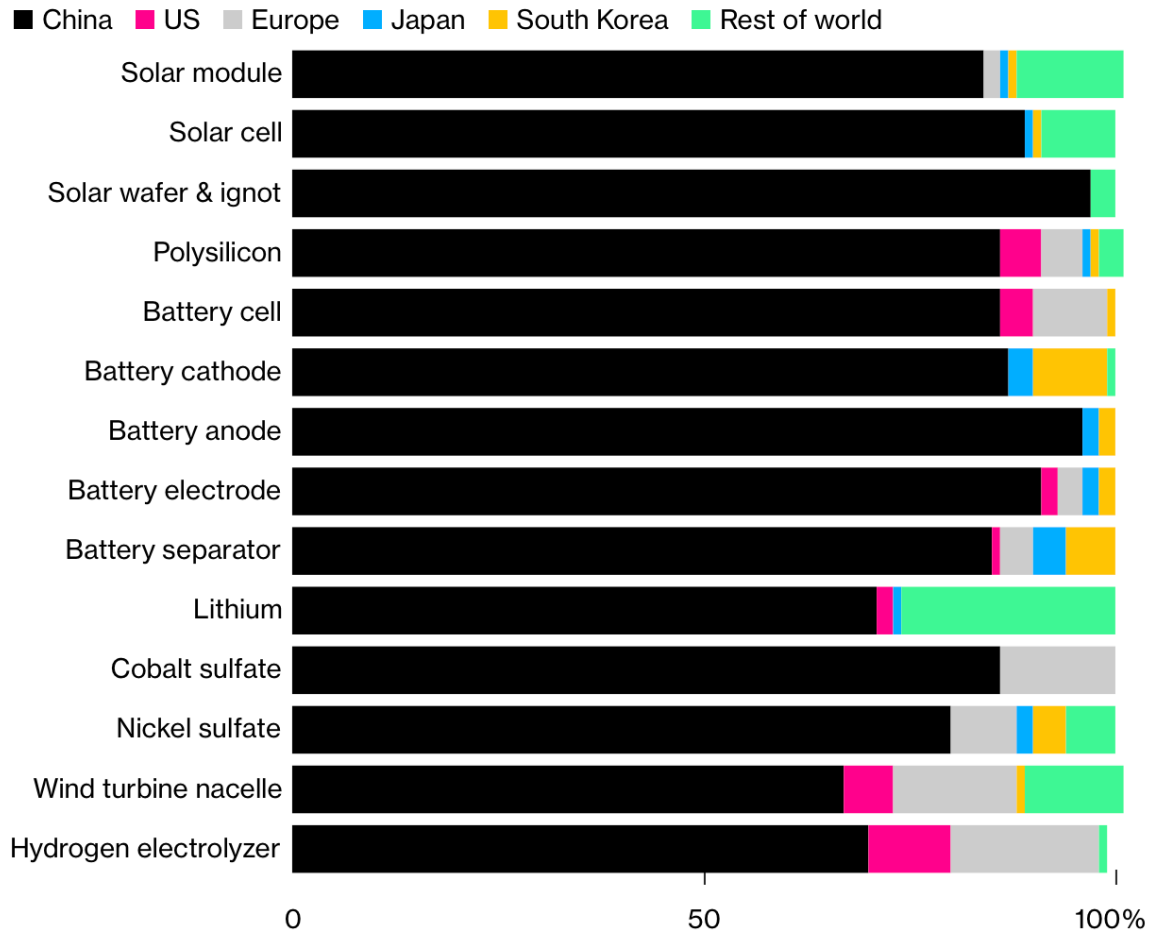
Global clean-tech factory investment by geography



BloombergNEF

China's Cleantech Manufacturing Dominance

China now dominates global cleantech manufacturing, RD&D, domestic installs, exports and OFDI



China is Moving in Decarbonisation, Rapidly

China leads the world in firmed renewable energy globally, by far, adding another 50GW of renewables capacity in 2MCY2025 YTD.

New Capacity Installed in China in Jan-Feb 2025

		Jan-Feb 25	% Share of total new adds	% yoy change	Jan-Feb 24	% Share of new adds
Th Office on the web Frame	GW	3.6	7%	-6%	3.9	7%
Hydropower	GW	1.3	2%	45%	0.9	2%
Nuclear Power	GW	-	0%	0%	-	0%
Wind Power	GW	9.1	17%	1%	9.0	17%
Solar Power	GW	39.6	74%	3%	38.4	74%
Total capacity added	GW	53.7	100%	3%	52.2	100%
Renewable Energy adds	GW	50.0	93%	4%	48.3	93%
Zero Emissions Capacity Adds	GW	50.0	93%	4%	48.3	93%
Total new spent on power grid investment	US\$bn	6.0		34%		

Source: National Energy Administration, Climate Energy Finance Calculations



China New Energy Vehicles & BESS

NEV momentum has accelerated to-date in 2025

Snapshot electric vehicle sales in Jan-Feb 2025 vs Jan-Feb 2024, Year to Date (YTD) %

- Global: 2.4 million, +30%
- China: 1.4 million, +35%
- EU & EFTA & UK: 0.5 million, +20%
- USA & Canada: 0.3 million, +20%
- Rest of World: 0.2 million, +35%

- BYD global NEV sales in 1QCY2025 were 1,000,804 vehicles, +60% yoy.
- Tesla's global sales were -13% yoy 1QCY2025, delivering 336,000 vehicles

- BYD global BESS sales in 1QCY2025 were a record 52.6GWh, up  77% yoy.
- Tesla 1QCY2025 deployed 10.4 GWh of energy storage products,  157% yoy

Source: RhoMotion, 12 March 2025

<https://rhomotion.com/news/global-ev-sales-up-50-in-february-2025/>

China's US\$155bn Cleantech ODFI since 2023

China's response to the growing US and EU anti-China trade barriers: US\$155bn of Outbound Foreign Direct Investment in Cleantech, Globally

China's great green march across the globe

The Middle Kingdom wants to control the global clean-tech sector. Can it save the planet, too?

BY TAN DAWN WEI, DAVID FOGARTY AND WAHYUDI SOERIAATMADJA | PUBLISHED: MAR 22, 2025

THE STRAITS TIMES

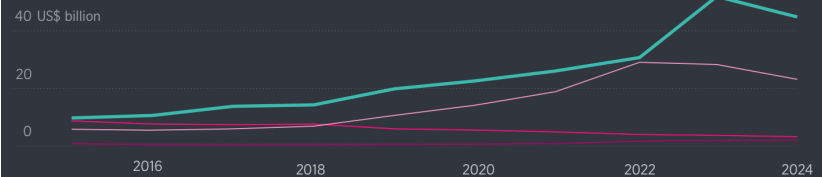
BEIJING/SINGAPORE/JAKARTA – On the outskirts of the Indonesian city of Semarang in Central Java, a new factory is cranking out solar cells and assembling solar panels with the help of robots, while autonomous carts whizz around ferrying parts and components.

The Trina Mas Agra Indonesia solar panel plant, operational since October 2024, is a US\$100 million joint venture between China's Trina Solar, Indonesian conglomerate Sinar Mas and Indonesian state utility PLN.

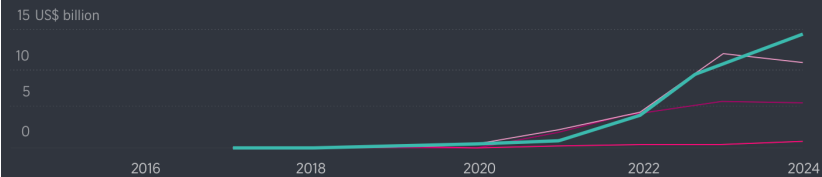
With an annual one gigawatt (GW) total panel capacity that is set to increase to 3GW, the plant is the first and largest integrated solar cell and solar panel manufacturer in Indonesia. It is helping to accelerate a much-needed energy transition in South-east Asia's largest economy, and could in future bring green electricity to Singapore.

The **Global South** has emerged as a major destination for Chinese clean-tech exports, vying with the **EU**, **US** and **UK**.

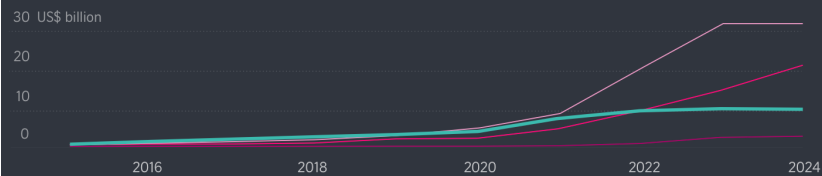
Solar



Electric vehicles



Batteries



Source: CEF Report: **China Outbound FDI, Oct'2024**

<https://climateenergyfinance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/final--CEF-Report-China-Outbound-FDI-2-October-2024-2.pdf>

The Straits Times 22 March 2025: <https://www.straitstimes.com/multimedia/graphics/2025/03/china-great-green-march-globe/index.html?shell>

The World is Responding to China's Challenge

As the US self-isolates and embraces climate science denialism, this opens new options for strategic alliances

China, Japan, S. Korea Renew Free-Trade Call, Vow to Build Ties

By [Yoshiaki Nohara](#) and [Soo-Hyang Choi](#) 30 March 2025 Bloomberg

Trade chiefs from China, Japan and South Korea renewed their call for an open, fair flow of goods and pledged to deepen economic ties, a few days before the Trump administration is set to unleash fresh tariffs on nations around the world.

South Korea's Industry Minister Ahn Duk-geun and his counterparts, Yoji Muto of Japan and China's Wang Wentao, discussed a free trade agreement in Seoul. While they didn't signal significant progress toward a pact, the gathering demonstrated increasing willingness among the three countries to strengthen ties as they face the impact of US tariffs.

"We especially recognized the need for ongoing trilateral economic and trade cooperation to effectively address emerging challenges and achieve tangible outcomes in key areas," the ministers said in a joint statement.

UK and China restart meaningful climate change dialogue

Energy Secretary calls for action and cooperation from China to tackle the climate emergency.



From: [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#) and [The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP](#)

Published 14 March 2025

Joint statement between the people's Republic of China and the French Republic on climate change on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Paris Agreement

27 March 2025 The People's Republic of China and the French Republic:

Considering the urgency of responding to the climate crisis and its impact on ecosystem, civil society and global economy, and recognizing the indispensable role of international cooperation in implementing the three Rio Conventions, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Reiterating the strong commitments to enhance international cooperation on climate change and uphold multilateralism, and the firm support for the Paris Agreement and its temperature goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.



The World is Responding to China's Challenge

**The European Commission announced another €100bn
for clean industrial investments**

Europe's clean industrial future

27 February 2025

Yesterday, one of the year's most awaited legislative pronouncements was unveiled, as European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen [presented the EU Clean Industrial Deal](#) — a roadmap to strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness & accelerate decarbonisation.

Bringing together energy-intensive industries & clean-tech innovation, the **Clean Industrial Deal** sets the course for a climate-neutral and resilient European economy. Landing as a response to geopolitical tensions, economic slowdowns, and increasing global competition, the deal has been labelled a big win for clean-tech manufacturers and industrial decarbonisation aiming to ensure that Europe's industries remain at the forefront of the green transition. Key initiatives are:

- €100+ billion mobilised for clean industrial investments, including a new Industrial Decarbonisation Bank.
- Made in Europe” incentives to ensure EU procurement prioritises sustainable, locally produced clean tech.
- Support for energy-intensive sectors (steel, cement, chemicals) to cut emissions while maintaining competitiveness.
- An [Affordable Energy Action Plan](#) to lower energy bills for industries, businesses and households and speed up the roll-out of clean energy and accelerate electrification and interconnectivity, making the link between security of supply and competitiveness abundantly clear.
- Looser state aid rules to help industries transition to low-carbon production and green manufacturing.
- New Circular Economy & Raw Materials Plan in 2026 to reduce waste and secure key industrial materials.
- Skills & workforce development to create new green jobs in industrial regions.
- Carbon Border Tax (CBAM) adjustments to protect EU industries from carbon-intensive imports.

Australia is Responding to China's Challenge

Strategic public capital is a key facilitator, in the absence of a CO₂ price signal

FMIA, CIS, RTN, NRF, Future Fund, CEFC, ARENA, EFA, NAIF

Capacity Investment Scheme

The Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) is an Australian Government revenue underwriting scheme to accelerate investment in:

- 23 GW of renewable capacity representing \$52 billion in investment
- 9 GW of clean dispatchable capacity representing \$15 billion in investment.

South Australia

Australian
Associated Press

20 Feb 2025

Troubled Whyalla steelworks gets \$2.4bn government bailout as hunt for new owner begins

“Crucial support:” Federal Labor launches \$2bn green aluminium production credit scheme

 RENEW ECONOMY **Andrew Brown** Jan 20, 2025

Rio Tinto says aluminium could run on renewables and batteries

FINANCIAL REVIEW Feb 6, 2025

\$19bn Rewiring the Nation Fund

The \$19 billion Rewiring the Nation (RTN) Fund is a significant expansion of CEFC investment capacity, with a particular focus on facilitating the timely delivery of grid and transmission projects, using CEFC capital to accelerate the benefits of grid transformation to consumers, including helping to lower consumer energy costs.

\$200 million investment in critical minerals to build Australia's future

15 January 2025

The Hon Ed Husic MP
Minister for Industry and Science

The Albanese Government's National Reconstruction Fund Corporation (NRFC) will invest \$200 million in Arafura Rare Earths to help build Australia's Future.

Australia's Electricity System Decarbonisation

Massive deflation, manufacturing capacity expansion and technology development: Solar + BESS => Accelerated Energy System Disruption



CLIMATE ENERGY FINANCE

International Solar PV and BESS Manufacturing Trends

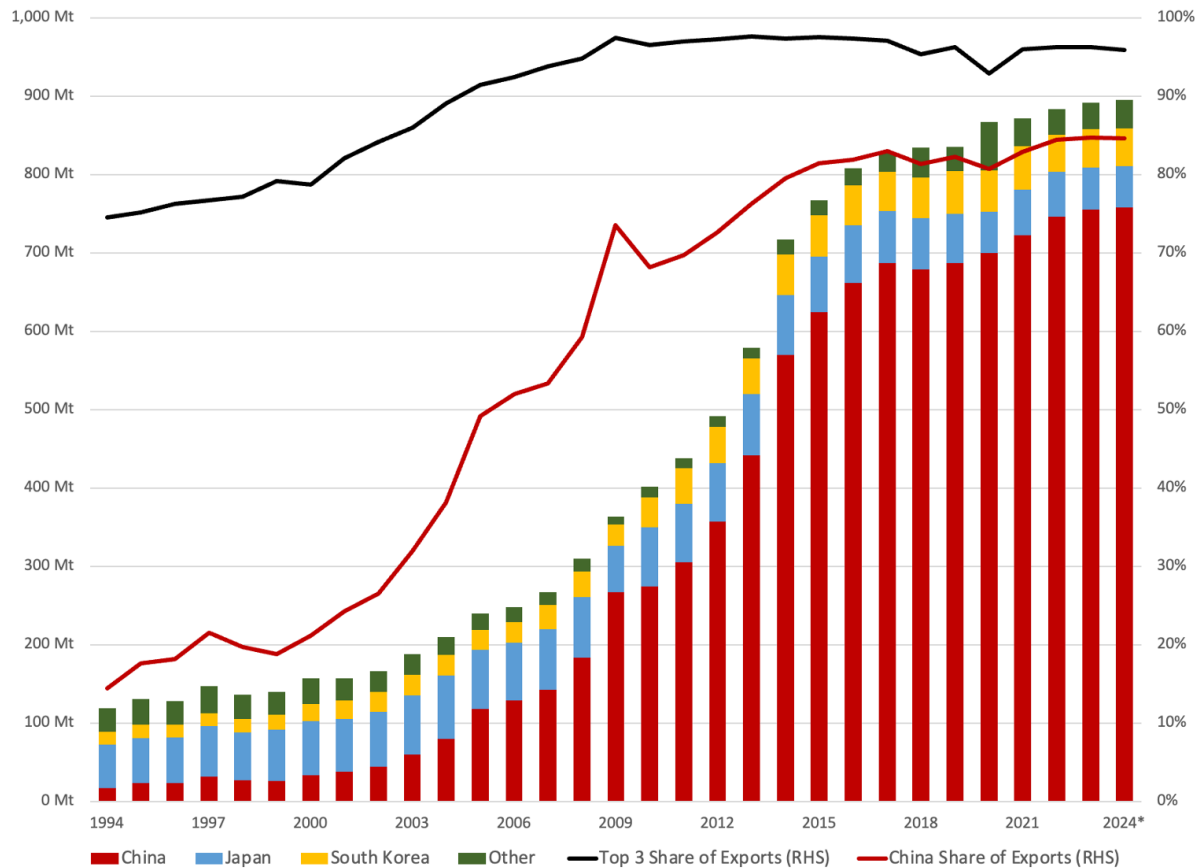
Solar PV's disruption is happening at a speed beyond imagination, turbocharged by BESS firming



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Caroline Wang, China Energy Policy Analyst, CEF (caroline@climateenergyfinance.org)
Tim Buckley, Director, CEF (tim@climateenergyfinance.org)

Australia – a massive economic threat, but also a massive strategic opportunity

Australia's Iron Ore Export Markets



China accounted for 85% of Australia's A\$138bn pa of iron ore exports, having delivered +6% CAGR in volume over the last decade. This has been a key partnership of profound strategic value for Australia.

But Chinese steel production likely peaked in 2020 (China's steel output was -3% yoy in 2024), scrap use is rising, and China is diversifying into Simandou, Guinea (120Mtpa).

Source: Office of the Chief Economist
 Note: 2024 is annualised from 1H2024

Australia's Green Iron Challenge

The case for a 'Clean Commodities Trading Company' to advance Australia's green superpower ambitions

A Clean Commodities Trading Company classification would deliver massive and connected economic, environmental, and strategic gains.



OLIVER YATES



ELIZABETH THURBON

DECEMBER 4, 2024

Share



The CCTC as a model for sophisticated green energy statecraft. (Bruce Aspley/Adobe)

Australia is uniquely positioned to become a green superpower. We believe a Clean Commodities Trading Company (CCTC) — potentially jointly owned with trading partners such as Japan and South Korea — could be the next key to unlocking our green industrial potential. Working alongside a smart Production Tax Credit (PTC) scheme, a CCTC would derisk global supply and demand for nascent green industrial products like metals, hydrogen and fuels.

Australia is introducing value-add Production Incentive Credits as part of its wider Future Made in Australia (FMIA) strategy.

CEF is also advocating for the development of an Asian CBAM, to leverage and extend the EU CBAM, and China's national ETS in electricity, hopefully soon to also cover steel.

Source: The Mandarin, Dec'2024

<https://www.themandarin.com.au/282814-clean-commodities-trading-company-australias-green-superpower-ambitions/>